

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

June 14, 2015

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is our Rock

Deuteronomy 32:3-4: "For I proclaim the name of the Lord; Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 40:1-3

+We Adore Him

Hymn #175, "A Wonderful Savior"

We Confess Our Sin

Adorable Jesus! We acknowledge our vileness, our worthlessness, our ingratitude. With shame and confusion of face we look up unto You, O bleeding Lamb, for having slighted Your goodness, and Your lovingkindness towards us. Take away this earthliness from our minds; this coldness from our hearts; this insensibility to the things of God. Preserve us from a secret alienation of heart; from a growing lukewarmness. You are the Rock of Ages, the everlasting Strength. Endue us with power from on high to overcome all our indwelling corruptions, which, like a thick cloud, intervene between our soul and You, the Sun of Righteousness; and thus prevent the rays of Your consolation from gladdening our hearts, and making us to abound in the fruits of righteousness.

To whom can we look, to whom can we go, but unto You, O Friend of sinners. Lord, at your sweet call, we come for pardon, peace, and holiness. Lord! We are sorely grieved, that we love You so little; that our affections move so slowly towards You. Stir up our languid desires. In flame our cold affections. Set our whole soul on fire with holy love.

How painful, that we should be so little affected by the agony and bloody sweat, the cross and passion, of our

suffering Redeemer. Why are not our souls all on fire when we think of your love? Why are we not melted into tears, when we think of our dying Savior? Are we harder than the rock in Horeb? Are we colder than the northern ice? Lord! Smite our rocky hearts with the rod of your lovingkindness; dissolve our frozen affections, by the melting beams of Your grace.

O blessed Jesus! We praise You for such infinite love, such abounding grace to the chief of sinners! Amen!

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #499, "Rock Of Ages"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Lk. 6:47-48

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #689, "Be Still, My Soul"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

2 Ths. 2:13-15

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #700, "Come, We That Love The Lord"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

A Cross-Section of a Healthy Church, Pt. 4b

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Study Notes for June 14, 2015

I. Introduction

II. A Cross-Section of a Healthy Church, 1 Thes. 1:2-10.

- A. Its Foundational Creed, vv. 10b-c.
- B. The Facets of its Conversion, vv. 9-10a.
- C. The External Consequences, vv. 7-8, 2.

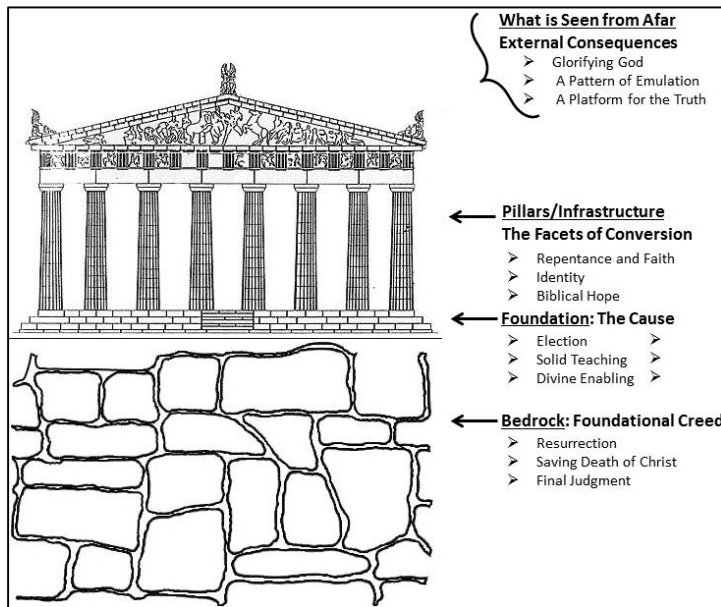
D. The Cause, vv. 4-6.

- 1. Election, v. 4.
- 2. Solid Teaching, v. 5a.
- 3. Divine Enabling, v. 5b.

4. Personal Conviction, vv. 5c, 6a.

Verse 5c

The word Paul used here for “conviction” means “supreme fullness” and “certainty.” It is a strong word. But then he modifies it with the word “full” (πολύς [*polus*]) which makes it even stronger (the word πολύς [*polus*] means full or complete). Putting the words together, Paul says fourthly, “Our gospel... came to you... with complete, supreme fullness of conviction!”¹



Convenience

verses

Conviction

Rom. 4:20-21

Rom. 14:5

Heb. 6:11

Col. 4:12

“Get In!”

Verse 6a

Paul was a man mature in his faith. As such, he served the Lord even when it resulted in great conflict and pain. Well get this... that is exactly what the Thessalonians- this brand new church- did as well.

“..much tribulation...” (θλίψις [*thlipsis*])

“...and of the Lord”

Putting it into Practice

- 1. It is no wonder why the Thessalonians were a model church in the ancient world. All that they were and did before God was on account of a steadfast, immovable conviction concerning God, His Kingdom, His Gospel, and His word (cf. 1 Thes. 2:13a)!
- 2. The Fruit of Conviction

Col. 2:1-2a

Heb. 10:34b

¹ This could be in reference to Paul’s conviction- how he preached the word. However, it is best to take this in reference to how the Thessalonians received Paul’s preaching. Throughout this first chapter, Paul is reflecting NOT upon his ministry in Thessalonica *per se*, BUT clearly the Thessalonians’ response. Accordingly, if there is a lack of specificity in the reference of an activity (as it is here), it is most safe to take it first in reference to the Thessalonians, then those on the outside. N.B., in chapter 2, Paul’s focus shifts to his ministry and conduct in Thessalonica. Accordingly, I side with FF. Bruce, Masson, Moore, Findlay, and Dunn.

5. Godly Leaders, v. 5d.

Pleaders with a Cause: in some of his epistles, Paul had to mount a defense against the accusation that that is what he was about when he came preaching Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 9:11-12; Acts 20:33-34)...

Paul was NOT like the countless rabble who drifted through a town trying to manipulate the populace into given them their money. Instead, Paul proved to be a servant, and so a giver- not a taker!...

1 Thes. 2:5-7

1 Thes. 2:9-12

...and because of this, Paul proved to be an example of what godliness and service is all about!

=v. 6a: "You also became imitators of us and of the Lord..."

The Importance of Godly Examples

Christ as a "Type"

All Christians are to be "Types" (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8a; 1 Cor. 11:1)

Putting it into Practice

1. Do you live mindful that you are an example of what it means to be a servant of Christ?

Richard Baxter exhorted, "As long as men have eyes as well as ears, they will think they *see* your meaning as well as *hear* it; and they are apter to believe their sight than their hearing, as being the more perfect sense of the two. All that a minister does, is a kind of preaching; and if you live a covetous or careless life, you preach these sins to your people by your practice." (*The Reformed Pastor*, pp. 84-85)

2. The church in Thessalonica from the start had godliness personified in the flesh. As such, they didn't have to debate how to go about living in a sinful world as Christians; they saw it in Paul. No wonder they became the standard of what a church ought to be.

6. Assurance, v. 6b.

This verse tells us two things...

1. The Thessalonians did not have an easy go of it; they began their Christian life in the midst of overwhelming pressure- pressure to defect, forsake, and so dishonor the Lord (cf. 1 Thes. 3:3b-4)!
2. Yet amazingly, none of this fazed them as they were filled with a divinely inspired confidence that in and through all things, it was well with their soul!

...that is what is behind the word "joy"...

1. Happiness → happenstance
2. Joy: a conviction concerning one's relationship with God. IF you know Christ and so know that (1) your sins have been paid in full, (2) you stand before God perfect in Christ, (3) you will never know the condemnation of God, and that (4) on the Day of Judgment, God will welcome you into His kingdom, THEN in the here and now you have the conviction that it is well with your soul... we call that Assurance! Now if you have that conviction, then you have joy!

Gordon Fee looking at the Thessalonians observed, "...life as a pagan may have had its moments of happiness, as it does for humanity in general, but by and large it was for them a life of heaviness and toil, arid in religion and empty in personal fulfillment- especially for the slaves and poor freedmen who would have made up a large sector of the typical early Christian congregation (cf. 1 Cor 1:26). But in coming to Christ and thus receiving the Holy Spirit, they had been filled with such an unparalleled joy... this is the one characteristic of their life in the Spirit that Paul recalls for them as clear evidence of their conversion." (*The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians*, p. 39)

The Source of Assurance

The Holy Spirit

Living unto Christ (cf. Heb. 6:10-12)

A. W. Tozer wrote, "The man who comes to a right belief about God [via the gospel] is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems, for he sees at once that these have to do with matters which at the most cannot concern him for very long." (*The Knowledge of the Holy*, pp. 10-11)